

Applicant: Wayne Boga et al.
Application No.: 10/774,084
Response to Office action dated May 4, 2007
Response filed August 6, 2007

Remarks

Claims 15–34 remain pending in the application. In the Office action dated May 4, 2007, claims 30–34 were rejected as indefinite on the grounds that it was not clear as to whether the claims were directed to a suction roll strip or a suction box. Claim 29 was objected to for broadening the claim from which it depended. Claims 15–26 were rejected as obvious under 35 USC 103, on the grounds that the preamble limitation to a suction roll strip was not entitled to patentable weight as the body of the claim did not depend on the preamble for completeness.

Claim 29 has been amended to depend from claim 16 which is broader than claim 29. Claim 34 has been amended to add a terminal period.

Claim 30 has been amended to make it clear that it is a “suction roll seal strip” which is being claimed, not a suction box.

The courtesy extended to applicant’s counsel by Examiner Lawrence Ferguson at the interview conducted on Aug. 6, 2007, is acknowledged with appreciation. At the interview applicant’s counsel discussed the positioning of the seal strips within a suction roll and in a coiled form during shipping. There was a discussion of draft amendments to overcome the 112 rejections substantially as found in this response. Counsel emphasized that claim 30 was not directed to a suction box, but to a suction roll seal strip. The examiner suggested that making this clear in the remarks, together with the amendment, would tend to address the rejection. The examiner indicated that the amendments appeared to place the claims in better form. Claim 16 has been amended to properly refer to the antecedent suction roll seal strip, as suggested by the examiner at the interview.

As claims 30–34 were rejected only under 35 U.S.C. 112, and those rejections have been addressed, claims 30–34 are now allowable. Claims 15–26 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Selover, Jr., et al. on the grounds that the claim limitation to a “suction roll seal strip” was not given any patentable weight. As independent claims 15 and 16 have been amended to properly obtain patentable weight for the limitation to a suction roll seal strip, the rejections over Selover, Jr., et al. are overcome. Selover, Jr., et al. discloses elements of an

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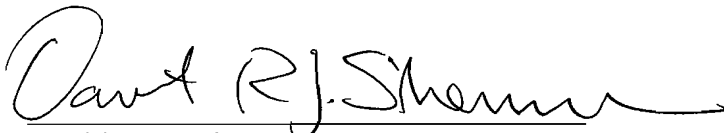
electrical capacitor, and does not relate to or suggest a suction roll seal strip, or a suction roll seal strip comprised of a material selected to allow a seal strip with a cross-section of 1.9 cm by 4.8 cm to be bent into a reel with a radius of less than 150 cm. Therefore, the art of record does not present a prima facie case of unpatentability. Claims 27-29 which depend on independent claim 16 are thus also allowable.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance.

Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David R. J. Stiennon".

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